

## REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction in this application among the claims of:

Group I: Claims 39-49, drawn to a method of preparing a quaternary ammonium alkylcarbonate;

Group II: Claim 50, drawn to a method of preparing a quaternary ammonium bicarbonate; and

Group III: Claims 51 and 52, drawn to a method of preparing a quaternary ammonium methocarbonate.

Applicant respectfully traverses this restriction requirement, and requests rejoinder of groups I and II.

The claim of group II (claim 50) depends from a claim of group I (claim 39). If the claims of group I are patentable over the prior art, so too is the claim of group II. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that the search and examination of the claims of groups I and II together would not be a serious burden upon the Examiner. See MPEP §803. Accordingly, applicant requests that the claims of groups I and II be examined together.

In order to be fully responsive, applicant provisionally elects the claims of Group I (claims 39-49) for further prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,

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